

App. No. 09/937,942
Reply to Office Action of July 26, 2004

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for promoting wound healing in mammals, said method comprising:

reepithelializing a wound surface by predisposing grafting wound healing factors into a negative pressure system, wherein said negative pressure system comprises:

a porous pad which is permeable to fluids and adapted for positioning within a sealable space defined in part by said wound surface; and

a tube having a first end in fluid communication with said porous pad and a second end in fluid communication with a vacuum source, said vacuum source being adapted to apply negative pressure to said porous pad through said tube.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said wound healing factor comprises basic fibroblast growth factor.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said wound healing factor comprises an anti-microbial agent.

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Claim 5 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 4, wherein said anti-microbial agent comprises an antibiotic.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 1, said negative pressure system further comprising a wound drape for sealing said porous pad within the sealable space.

Claims 8-11 (canceled)